

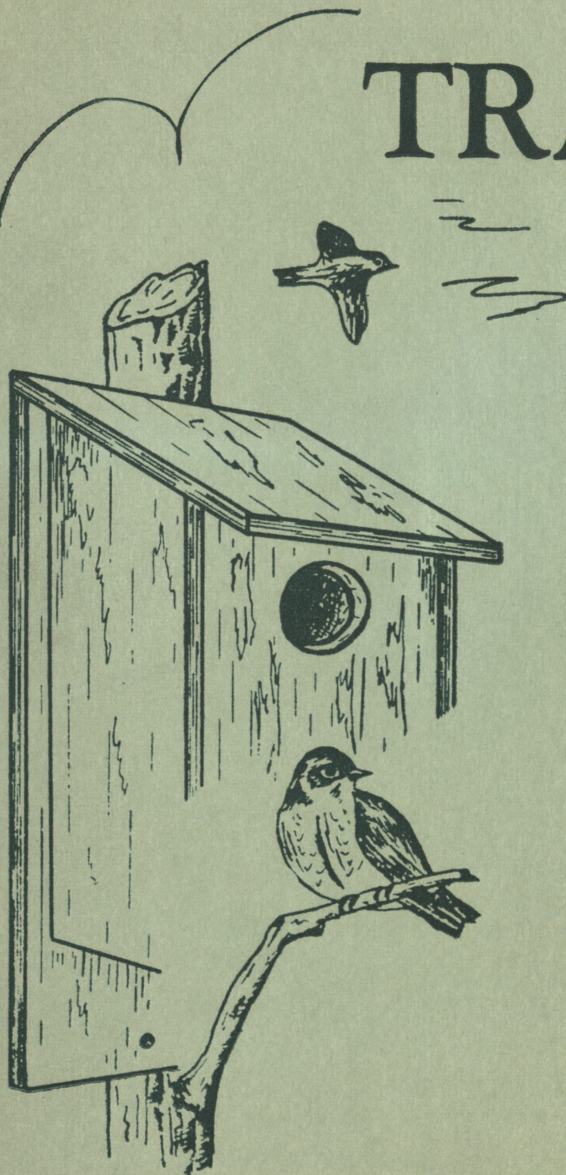
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PEQUOT

TRAILS



Published Quarterly by the Pequot-Sepos Wildlife Sanctuary, Incorporated
MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT

The Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary

INCORPORATED
MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT

CURATOR
WILLIAM WYLIE

A CONSERVATION PROGRAM OF EDUCATION AND RECREATION FOR
CHILDREN AND ADULTS

WHAT IS THE PEQUOT-SEPOS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY?

The Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary is a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the state of Connecticut for the purpose of promoting a community program of conservation education. The program includes work for the preservation and restoration of our natural resources.

It is a unique community enterprise in that it is supported entirely by interested citizens through memberships and contributions.

THE PEQUOT-SEPOS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY:

Maintains 125 acres of land for the purpose of teaching others the ways and values of protection and restoration of our birds, wildlife and other natural resources.

Maintains a trailside museum and a series of nature trails which tell the story of nature in a most instructive and fascinating manner.

In cooperation with the schools, girl scouts, boy scouts, community centers and other youth organizations, promotes a program of conservation education for children.

Conducts a year around program of field trips and activities for members.

Operates a bird-banding station in conjunction with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and cooperates with state and local conservation agencies.

Through personal guidance of the Curator, serves as a source of information and help on local and national conservation problems.

Furnishes information relative to the value of conservation to many individuals and organizations through correspondence, the press, and lectures.

Pursues a long range development program that insures a permanent and increasingly beneficial service to all local communities.

PEQUOT TRAILS

Vol. XII

Summer-Fall 1960

No. 2

Fall Field Trips to Begin

On Saturday, Sept. 3

The response to the Sanctuary sponsored Spring and Fall Saturday morning field trips has been most rewarding. The trips have proved quite popular and the birding has been up to expectations. These off-the-Sanctuary trips are designed primarily for birds and other forms of wildlife and not for the express purpose of visiting unique and interesting spots of scenic interest. Since these trips are conducted during the spring and fall migration periods, the bird life can be expected to change from week to week. For example, if you were to visit Napatree Point every Saturday during September and October you would find that the bird population, as to species and numbers, would change continuously. This will, it is hoped by your Curator, explain the reason for visiting the same place more than once during the spring or fall.

Your Curator will welcome any suggestions for possible field trips in the future. An effort is being made to conduct these trips to places where the birding is known to be good. Undoubtedly, some good areas are being overlooked. It is up to you to inform the Curator of these other spots. This will be your only official notice of the Fall field trips, so mark your calendar now. An effort will be made to have these field trip notices in the Mystic section of the New London Day and the Westerly Sun on the Thursday preceding each trip.

September 3, 7 a.m.—Barn Island

September 10, 7 a.m.—Napatree Point

September 17, 7 a.m.—Point Judith

September 24, 7 a.m.—Napatree Point

October 1, 7 a.m.—Kimball Sanctuary

October 8, 7 a.m.—Bluff Point

October 15, 7 a.m.—Harkness Memorial Park

October 22, 7 a.m.—Napatree Point

October 29, 7 a.m.—Mystic River

Saturday, Sept. 3, Barn Island

The Barn Island trips were very popular last fall and spring so it is only natural that they should be conducted again this fall. Local people can meet at the Sanctuary parking lot at 6:45 a.m. or on the Barn Island road at 7:00 a.m. Turn off U. S. No. 1 on the Greenhaven road and take the immediate right to Barn Island. Official starting point will be at the R.R. crossing on this road.

Saturday, Sept. 10, Napatree Point

Napatree Point is well known to birders and non-birders alike. It is a haven for migrating shore birds in both spring and fall. The first part of September should be about perfect for these shore birds. Leave the Sanctuary parking lot at 6:30 a.m. or meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot of the Watch Hill Yacht Club. Come prepared to walk two or three miles along the sandy beach.

Saturday, Sept. 17, Point Judith

Point Judith is a favorite birding spot for many people from eastern Connecticut, as well as for the members of the Rhode Island Audubon Society. This trip will be aimed primarily at shore birds and herons and has proven quite productive in the past. A number of hawks have also been observed on previous trips. This will be one of the longest trips of the fall series, returning to the Sanctuary about noon. Leave the Sanctuary parking lot at 7 a.m. and meet along the road on the causeway at 8 a.m. It will be well to note here that your Curator will be driving a pale blue Chevrolet station wagon on all of these trips.

Saturday, Sept. 24, Napatree Point

This is the second of three trips to Napatree this fall. The physical arrangements for this trip will be the same as for the trip of September 5. Two weeks later should show a marked change in shore birds and other migrants on this area. Your Curator

PEQUOT TRAILS

Published quarterly, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter, by the Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc., Mystic, Conn.

A Statement of Purpose:

We want this publication to be of the utmost service to you—to keep you informed concerning activities at the Sanctuary and in your community; to invite your participation in these activities; and to provide you with general articles of education and inspiration regarding conservation subjects. Won't you drop us a line and tell us what you would like to see published? We would appreciate it.

William Wylie, Curator
Tel. Mystic JEfferson 6-9248

made a number of personal early morning trips to Napatree last fall and had exceptional luck. Join this trip and see for yourself.

Saturday, Oct. 1, Kimball Sanctuary 7:00 a.m.

The Kimball is one of the Rhode Island Audubon Society Sanctuaries and has been a sanctuary for nearly thirty-five years. It is located about three miles off U. S. No. 1 opposite the Charlestown Naval Air Station next to Burlingame State park. This trip will leave the Pequot-sepos parking lot at 6:30 a.m. and should arrive at the Kimball near 7:00 a.m. This area should be good for late fall migrants, as well as having one of the best developed bird feeding stations known to your Curator.

Saturday, Oct. 8, Bluff Point 7:00 a.m.

The Bluff Point trip proved highly successful this spring so is going to be held again this fall. A combination of land birds, shore birds, and waterfowl should combine to make this one of the better trips of the series. Leave the Sanctuary parking lot at 6:45 a.m., or meet at the Groton Town Hall, Poquonnock Bridge, at 7:00 a.m. Mr. Walter J. Moran will again be the leader for this trip.

Fall Tea

Wouldn't it be a happy turn of events if the annual Fall Tea could be held at home? It is most probable. As a matter of fact, so sure were the Trustees at their August 30 meeting that this could be, that they voted to do so even though the interior of the new building may not be as completely finished as we would like it. The date is December 9, a Friday; and the hours tentatively set as 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Hugh L. M. Cole is Chairman this year; is dreaming of a log-fire in the new fireplace, tea, good fellowship and a full house. Now you wouldn't miss all that, would you? Patronize a purposeful event by setting aside the date, now.

Saturday, Oct. 15, Harkness Memorial Park 7:00 a.m.

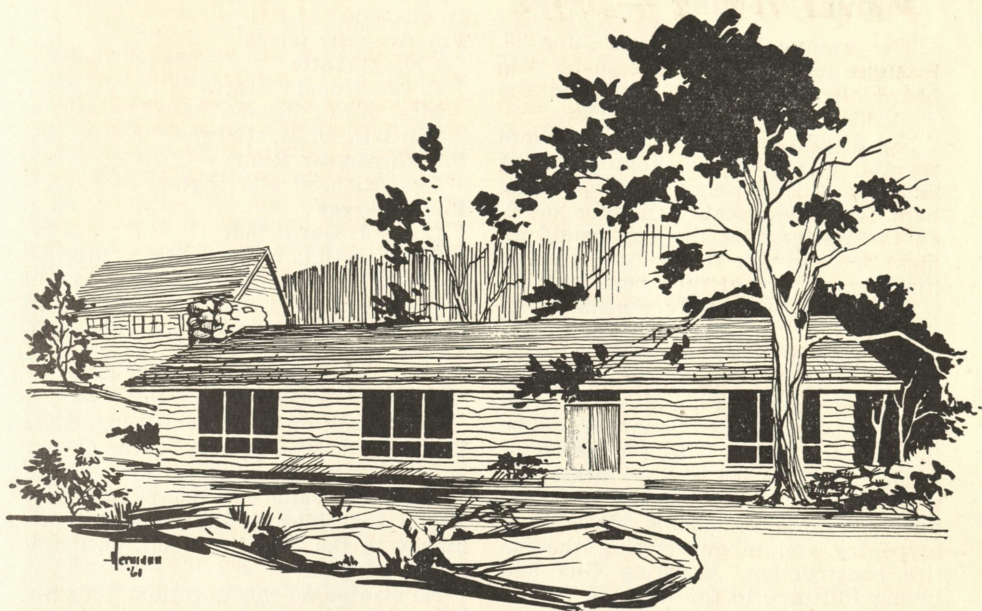
Harkness Park is a favorite birding spot of many of our New London members. Trips to the park in the past have proved worth while so it has now become an annual event. Leave from the Sanctuary parking lot at 6:30 a.m. or meet at the parking lot at Harkness at 7:00 a.m. This park is located on Great Neck Road, Waterford.

Saturday, October 22, Napatree Point 7:00 a.m.

This is the third and last trip to Napatree this fall. The same arrangements hold for this trip as for the first trip on September 3. The shore birds should be fewer in numbers by this time, but definitely different as to species. Some early arriving waterfowl should also be observed by this time.

Saturday, October 29, Mystic River 7:00 a.m.

A trip to check the bird life on and around the Mystic River at this time of year should be interesting. Many migrants should be in by now. The trip will start from the Sanctuary parking lot at 7:00 a.m. and the exact route will be planned at that time. Join us here, and let's get a good count on the river.



New Building

Mystic—A new Trailside Museum at the Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary is under construction and will look like this when it is finished.

The building is about 30 by 60 feet, of wooden construction on a cement slab and will have a rough-hewn, wavy-edged plank siding to fit into its rustic surroundings on the sanctuary grounds.

Designed by Architect William Hermann of the Mystic office of the Louis Drakos firm, the museum will be a year-round facility heated for winter occupancy.

It will replace the present Trailside Museum housed in the old Denison barn at the sanctuary entrance. The 125-acre tract lies on the northeast edge of Mystic on the Pequot-sepos Road and Mistuxet Avenue.

"We plan to use this building heavily in conjunction with school classes. Heated, it will permit us to bring children from schools all over southeastern Connecticut and nearby Rhode Is-

land to the sanctuary on a planned program throughout the school year.

In this way the sanctuary will influence thousands of school children and many adults in the cause for conservation," expounded Curator William Wylie.

Garden clubs, scout groups and others will be able to use the museum for classes and meetings, he added.

The cement slab has been laid and work is progressing on the side walls of the new building. It is located about 120 feet behind and on one side of the present museum building.

Nature exhibits and the Trading Post now located in the barn will be moved to the new museum when it is ready.

Wylie is wielding a hammer and saw on the project with the assistance of a couple of workers and, now and then, a volunteer or two.

—from The New London Evening Day, Aug. 3, 1960.

Annual Meeting — 1960

The Annual Meeting, held June 26, brought out about fifty members, who heard the customary reports in the Trailside Museum of the Society.

Not at all customary, however, were several reports on the progress of the new Trailside Museum building. Members, from their seats as they conducted the business of the day, could almost see through the picture window the framework of the new building with one gable proudly reaching into the trees at the head of the trails. They listened, with a natural excitement, as Ridley Watts, Chairman of the Fund Raising Committee, predicted the final amount necessary would be in hand or pledged within a matter of weeks. They heard of the rather unusual contribution being made by Augustus Peterle in lending his skill at carpentry and in supervising the entire construction. Assisting Gus and giving full time to the work, is Walter Moran of Montville. The members listened to Curator William Wylie's hopes and plans for the expanded usefulness of the Sanctuary through this new teaching tool.

Mrs. Malcolm D. MacGregor, closing three successful terms as President, presided. Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting were read by Mrs. Barry Dench, Secretary, and approved by the members. Nelson Pickering, presented a complete and satisfying Treasurer's report, which appears in full as a part of these minutes. The Curator made his usual report of activities during the past year, found elsewhere in this issue, and expressed thanks for the helpfulness of many volunteers, particularly to the ladies of the local garden clubs for their work as hostesses.

Noted, with an expression of our deep loss, were the recent deaths of Mrs. Eunice Whitney, an original Founder and President for two terms, and members Mrs. Cottrell Chandler and Mrs. Herbert Knox.

In the absence of Robert Burnett, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mrs. Donald Cottrell presented a list of suggested Trustees, Class of 1965, and two others to fill vacated posts; and upon proper motion and

second the following were unanimously elected:

For five-year terms

Ridley Watts

B. MacDonald Steers

Mrs. W. L. Pryor

Malcolm D. MacGregor

For three-year term

Mrs. Richard Harrington

For one-year

Louis J. Darmstadt

The meeting closed with a talk by the Curator on what Conservation really means to us all, followed by an informal question and answer period.

Annual Meeting Sidelights

In his talk on Conservation, Curator Wylie said: "The greatest value of any small Sanctuary, such as ours, is the educational value to the community, adults and children alike, and not primarily to the wild life itself, as many might suppose.

He also posed this question: This Society, he said, is devoted to the protection of our wild life, which means predators and prey alike. What rights has he, as Curator of such a Society, to use methods of control over such a menace, say, as the muskrat? If the muskrats are given free rein, we will have no duck pond and eventually no ducks. This is true also of the skunk and raccoon. Has the Society and its Curator the right to correct such local imbalances of Nature? Tell us what you think.

* * *

A happy and appropriate "second" to the Curator's remarks on Conservation came from Williams Haynes, one of the Society's past-Presidents and the one whose idea it was for the Denison Society's acres to be used in this way. As a chemist, he said, he could not get excited about the loss of our natural resources, such as coal and oil. These things can and will be produced synthetically; but we cannot synthesize a chickadee, and if we did not have our birds, the insects would quickly eat us out of sustenance. Intermixing anecdote and serious thought from his own rich experience, he gave a nice stamp of approval for all of us to what the Society is doing.

The Curator's Third Report

It hardly seems possible that three years have passed since my coming to the Pequot-sepos Sanctuary. They have certainly been the fastest three years of my life; and as my father says, this is a sure sign of growing older. I might also add that they have been a very productive three years since we arrived in Mystic, my wife and I, without children. We now have three little ones — Mark, Gay and Apryl. I can say in all sincerity that I have never lived in a more friendly community. My wife and I are sold on the Pequot-sepos, Mystic, and our way of life in this area.

Your Sanctuary has grown—is growing now—and should continue to grow by leaps and bounds with the completion and, eventually, full operational use of the new Trailside Museum. For me to be on the construction site daily and watch this new museum building materialize right before my eyes, and my hammer, is a thrill almost beyond comparison. The building is far from completion, but work is progressing satisfactorily and the first of the year should see the museum nearly finished. I would like, at this time, to invite all of the Sanctuary members and their friends to come to the Sanctuary and observe the construction this far completed, and to watch in future weeks the project materialize.

Now, what have I been doing for the past year? A thirty hour day and a ten day week would solve many of my problems, as you will see. I made personal contact with a large number of school groups during the school year. In the fall and spring, classes from some of the local schools came here for field trips; and during the winter months, I visited a number of schools putting on natural history assembly programs.

I have noticed an increased number of both boy and girl scouts coming to the Sanctuary to pass merit badges and other scout requirements. I am the Mystic area Scout Nature Badge Counsellor, as you may remember.

During the winter I sponsored an Audubon Junior Club composed of eight local girls of junior high school

age. We met for two hours every other Saturday afternoon. The work with this Audubon Club was composed mostly of field work on birds, trees, and other forms of natural history found on and off the Sanctuary. One trip was made to the Barn Island area for water birds and another trip along the Mystic River to study ducks and gulls in particular.

I again taught my basic course in bird identification in March and April with an average attendance in excess of twenty people per class. The class met in the renovated Carriage Shed, which proved much more satisfactory than meeting here and there for various lectures. The lectures and illustrations seemed to be enjoyed by all participants and I hope they got more from the class than just entertainment.

The approach of spring brought on my busy season. There is a lot to do on the trails and grounds each spring, as well as the job of preparing the Trailside Museum for opening in the middle of May. Thanks to the energetic work and enthusiasm of Mrs. Douglas MacGregor and Mrs. Hugh L. M. Cole, the Trading Post was completely painted and rearranged. It makes a much better appearance now. Gone forever are the dullness and clutter of past years.

I had two major projects mapped out for this spring. The first project and part of a long range plan of lasting interest, was the planting of 250 cone bearing trees in the lower meadow. This project has been undertaken for several reasons. First, it is getting more and more difficult to get hay cut in this area, and I did not want to abandon the field and let it go to brush like other fields have in the immediate area. Secondly, cone bearing trees attract an interesting and varied array of birds during the winter months. It is hoped that in the future years when this area has a good assortment of cone bearing trees, we can count on attracting some of these unusual birds: grosbeaks, crossbills, various finches, siskins and red-polls.

This project has barely started with

the planting of 250 trees this year, however, as it is going to require nearly 2,000 trees to do the area justice. I plan to plant trees each spring until the project is completed.

The second major project was that of the incubator hatching of duck eggs collected from the Sanctuary mallards. Mallard ducks are notoriously poor parents and the Sanctuary ducks failed completely this season to raise so much as a single duckling. The mallards' poor nesting habits, coupled with the high population of skunks and raccoons in this area, make for a poor combination in the interest of increasing the duck population.

I collected eggs early in the season which were laid pell mell along the edge of the pond, in the paths, and in the adjacent fields. Mallards mate and lay eggs early in the spring before the vegetation has grown sufficiently for concealing a nest. The first batch of eggs hatched successfully; but unfortunately, after about seven weeks, a raccoon broke into the rearing pen one night and killed all but two of the ducklings.

The second batch, fourteen birds in all, were hatched successfully, pen reared both inside and on the pond, without incident. They were eventually released on the pond at about eight weeks of age to join the adults. This has just doubled our Sanctuary mallard population and is the beginning of what will become a yearly project.

I hope that in some future year we can obtain eggs, through Federal wild life channels, from other species of ducks and try to establish as nesting birds such species as the blue-winged teal, pintail and others.

The Sanctuary-sponsored field trips are continuing to be a big success and I enjoy them as much, if not more, than those people who join me. Just to refresh your memory, there is a public nature walk every Sunday of the year at the Pequot-sepos Sanctuary. These walks are at 7:00 a.m. right now, and through the end of October. Beginning the first Sunday in November, the walks will begin at 2:30 p.m. from the new Trailside Museum. Re-

freshments are served on the afternoon walks and many varied natural history subjects are studied and discussed during the afternoon.

In addition to the weekly Sunday walks, there continues to be the Saturday field trip to points of current interest every week of the four best migration bird months—April, May, September, October. For the schedule and details of these Saturday trips consult your latest copy of *Pequot Trails*. These trips are becoming more popular but many more people could attend, to the mutual benefit of all. I can see marked improvement in field identifications by those people who regularly attend these trips.

The Trailside Museum, at present, is open from May 15 through October 15. The attendance last fall and this spring has been good, certainly the most people in the three years that I have been here. Surprisingly enough, summers have, in the past, been pretty quiet here. People are usually at the beach, boating, or away on vacation. This year has been the exception. The Sanctuary has been humming with activity daily this summer. I would like to express my deep gratitude to the hostesses from the local garden clubs, who have relieved me of museum responsibilities, allowing me to work on the Sanctuary grounds and on construction of the new building.

All in all it has been a very rewarding and active third year at the Pequot-sepos Sanctuary. I am looking ahead, with great interest and enthusiasm and anticipation, to the many happy and profitable years which are bound to lie ahead.

—William L. Wylie

* * *

BEATING THEIR SWORDS INTO PLOUGHSHARES. Little did they realize when they were on the U. S. S. **Piedmont** fifteen years ago in the South Pacific, that in 1960 William L. Wylie and Captain M. D. MacGregor would be serving together as Curator and Treasurer, respectively, of P.S.W.S.

Annual Report of the Treasurer, July 1, 1959 to June 26, 1960

	Receipts	1960	1959
Cash, Washington Trust Co., July 1, 1959 and 1958		\$ 2,793.29	\$ 1,493.54
Membership Dues		3,882.00	3,905.00
Special Gifts (General Use)		465.00	852.00
Special Gifts (New Museum)		5,987.00	
Trading Post Sales (Inc. Sales Tax)		1,692.91	1,773.26
Lectures		360.58	121.31
Curator's Teaching Fee (Half Year)		750.00	750.00
Contribution Box		74.65	
New Year's Eve Dance		1,955.00	1,824.00
Tea and Christmas Wreaths		1,058.92	371.09
Miscellaneous		64.20	31.10
Total		\$19,084.07	\$11,772.48
	Disbursements		
Curator's Salary (Inc. Blue Cross and Shield) Note 1		\$ 3,930.81	\$ 4,345.59
Museum Maintenance		402.88	426.18
Lectures		150.00	27.60
Postage and Printing		759.17	444.29
Telephone and Electricity, Note 2		50.03	146.37
Tools and Equipment		1,273.69	320.03
Trading Post Supplies		1,299.65	1,133.92
Taxes and Insurance		188.02	258.20
New Year's Eve Dance		921.58	769.27
Tea		239.85	
Miscellaneous		147.76	156.56
Total		\$ 9,363.44	
Cash Washington Trust Co., June 26, 1960		9,720.63	
	Assets		
Cash Washington Trust Co. (Building Fund)		\$ 5,987.52	\$
Cash Washington Trust Co. (Operating)		3,733.11	2,793.29
Savings Account, Groton Savings Bank		872.36	771.40
Petty Cash, Trading Post		57.67	50.90
Trading Post Stock Inventory (at cost)		575.30	534.71
Truck (depreciated)		250.00	
Tools, Mowing Machines, etc. (depreciated)		225.00	226.00
Total		\$11,700.96	\$ 4,376.30
	Trading Post		
Sales July 1, 1959 to June 15, 1960		\$ 1,692.91	
Stock and Cash on hand June 15, 1960		632.97	
		\$ 2,325.88	\$ 2,325.88
Stock and Cash on Hand June 30, 1959		585.61	
Purchases to June 15, 1960		1,299.65	
		\$ 1,885.26	\$ 1,885.26
Profit before Taxes			440.62
State Sales Tax			28.00
Net Profit			\$ 412.62
New Year's Eve Dance Profit		\$ 1,023.42	\$ 1,054.73
Note 1: Withholding Tax, Soc. Sec., Blue Cross and Shield, not included.			

The President Speaks

A new president has been elected and it is barely possible that some of the members might wish to know a little about him. There is not much to tell. The footsteps of his predecessor, who has done a brilliant job over several terms of office, will be difficult to follow.

Almost as far back as memory goes, interest in wildlife has existed. Since a small boy is largely stomach, much of this early interest was from the standpoint of edibility. But as knowledge and understanding of wild things increased, so did the predatory instinct subside, and a degree of civilization descended upon the little savage.

With the mastering of the covey call, whereby quail literally ran over one's feet as he sat motionless against a tree or corn shock, these delightful little citizens were removed from the category of prey to that of friends. Various pets continued the process and the interest in wild things, which always had existed, intensified. It became a great deal more pleasant to see and to learn than to kill, even though the latter had established the first contacts. There was the wild turkey and her brood over in the rugged section along the bluffs, the pet raccoon with its dainty, inquiring hands which explored one's pockets for interesting things. There was Fuzz, the squirrel, and many others, including the snake which went to school in a pocket and caused consternation when it escaped.

Later, life in New York City, over thirty years of it, changed the conditions, but not the interest. There was the duck hawk that established itself at the Telephone Building and dropped its refuse down onto the parapet outside the window. There were the haunting calls of migrating geese echoing down the man-made canyons. Walks in Van Cortlandt Park, just at sun-up, before the park was "improved" and the swamp filled, brought rewarding experiences. There was the nest of the wood duck, the fox's earth where, if one were most careful, the vixen and her cubs could be watched.

There was the woodchuck den with its portly inhabitant and even the odd deer to be seen on rare occasions. John Kieran has written charmingly of this area. But then came the road builders, the picnic grounds and other adjuncts of civilization and the old swamp was changed—for the better, undoubtedly. However, it is cheering to know that a few of the more rugged inhabitants still cling to what is left.

Upon retirement and removal to Stonington, and as a result of attendance of a series of bird identification talks by the Curator, application was made for membership in the Sanctuary. The various rambles over new territory have been a delight. When the President suggested membership on the Board of Trustees, such more intimate association with the Sanctuary's operation was most welcome. The Presidency is an unexpected culmination.

Our new museum and lecture hall, now under construction, will, we hope, be completed in time for use this coming winter. It is a very great pleasure herewith to thank those who have given so generously, both financially and of their time, to this project which should greatly enhance the value of the Sanctuary to the community.

Nature Unseen

Your Sanctuary, through your Curator, does a year-around job of education with children. Of particular interest, in early August, was a nature walk at Harkness Camp with nineteen children from the School for the Blind in Hartford.

Denied the sense of sight and the other perceptions intensified, the nineteen learned much. A crab, claws properly secured, was passed around and felt. The nature of kelp was perceived through the sense of touch and it made particular sense, to mind as well as palate, to hear that it is used in the manufacture of ice cream. Birds were identified by their calls.

There was one counsellor for each three children.

Hawk Migration

Field Trip Planned

(The hawk migration trip to Mount Tom last September proved so completely successful and rewarding that it is going to be repeated again this fall under the same arrangements. Curator)

The observation of migrating hawks in the fall of the year is one of the more interesting facets of bird watching. Hawks are not commonly observed in day to day birding by the average person, so that learning to identify the various species is quite difficult. Many above-average birders are almost at a complete loss when it comes to the birds of prey.

There are many places in eastern North America where it is not uncommon to be able to observe several thousand hawks in a single day. Of course, the weather conditions must be absolutely perfect to get a flight of this magnitude. Your Curator has talked at length with some of the more active members of the Sanctuary and plans have been formulated for a hawk trip this September. Plans to visit Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Pennsylvania were discussed, but the uncertainty of foretelling in advance the weather conditions, the right time for the good flights, and the distance involved, have ruled Hawk Mountain out for this year. Instead, a more flexible plan has been agreed upon.

Mount Tom, near Northampton, Mass., has good flights of hawks in September, and it is only about three hours driving time from the Sanctuary. Again, we run into the same difficulty of trying to call our shots in advance as to when to make the trip. So, we are not going to try to plan the trip in advance. Instead, your Curator is asking all persons interested in making a trip to Mt. Tom during the first three weeks in September, to contact him by telephone; (JEfferson 6-9248). These names and phone numbers will be recorded and the interested parties will be notified by phone the day before the trip is to be made.

This is the way the system should,

theoretically, work. The Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary is at the base of Mt. Tom. Ed Mason, Curator at the Arcadia, has been there for some twenty plus years and knows about as much as anyone in the area about these hawk flights. It is hoped that Ed will be able to call the day for us. When the wind and other conditions look right for the following day, Ed will give your Curator a call. Your Curator will, in turn, call all those persons who have expressed their interest, and the trip will leave from the Sanctuary parking lot at 6:00 the next morning.

These arrangements will not be suitable for all interested persons. This has been taken into account, and it is still felt that this is the best possible plan. It is possible that more than one trip will be made.

A person, even an experienced person like Ed Mason, cannot be expected to be absolutely correct in his prediction. If we make the trip to Mt. Tom and the flight does not materialize, the day will be spent birding at the Arcadia Sanctuary and along the Connecticut River. It is suggested that all persons taking this trip bring a box lunch and beverage.

Again, if you are interested in a hawk migration trip, please contact your Curator. He can't call you if you don't call him!

* * *

LOW BIDDER. Gus Peterle is exercising his knowledge of carpentry by working on the new Museum building, assisted by Walter Moran and Bill Wyllie, our Curator. For any Curator the actual construction of a new building is certainly extra-curricular. Mr. Moran is being paid at the same wage scale as Gus . . . Nothing.

* * *

The purple finch's misnomer (he is more pink than purple), comes from the fact that our forebears could not produce royal purple from the herbs and plants at hand. The nearest they could come to producing this dye was the pink or raspberry color, called Colonial purple, seen on the "purple" finch.

BIRD OF THE MONTH

Tame, friendly, curious, he is the acrobat of birdland. To find what he wants to eat he is so determined to get every small insect or egg hidden in crevices of twigs or bark that he will hang upside down, make peculiar maneuvers and put himself into all kinds of positions. He can cling with ease to a perpendicular limb or tree trunk, but you will notice his position is usually at an angle in consequence of his not having either feet or tail adapted to climbing. In winter he is the small boy of the woods. Like his companions, the nuthatches and kinglets, he seems actually to enjoy a snowstorm. In the bitterest weather he frisks from tree to tree, happy and care-free, immoderate in language and actions.

This is the chickadee, familiar to almost everybody because he will come within a few feet of the observer. All he needs is a feeding shelf to be drawn into your circle, and often becomes tame enough to take a morsel from your outstretched hand.

The chickadee's diminutive size, his neat and compact appearance, his black cap and throat, white cheeks and ashy upper parts make him easily identified and remembered. His lady prefers to nest in a hole in a post, in a deserted woodpecker hole or will excavate a hollow in a rotten stump or decaying tree, usually within fifteen feet of the ground. She lays six to eight eggs, white with small brown dots, in a nest of leaves, moss and grasses, snugly lined with hair, fur and feathers. Incubation period is about twelve days and occurs as early as the end of May. The young birds are flying by early or mid-July.

This bird feeds mainly upon insects and insect eggs; likes spiders, beetles, caterpillars and plant lice, but also takes many kinds of seeds, berries and wild fruits. Happily for most of us he likes the eggs of the tent caterpillar moth. Happily for the farmer he likes the snout beetle, or weevil, a real pest to the fruit grower. He is fond of fat in the winter and will come readily to suet placed on feeding shelves or in trees.

To the sea-minded, it is interesting to know that the latin name for the Newfoundland black-capped chickadee is *Parus atricapillus bartletti*, for the famed Arctic explorer and Newfoundlander, the late Captain R. A. Bartlett. But the common or Eastern chickadee is named by Linnaeus—*Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus*.

This bird is one of Nature's friendliest, but don't get too familiar by peering into her nest too often. She may lose patience and spit at you! This trick, on such occasions, is to draw in her breath until her body perceptibly swells, then a quick, explosive sound, like escaping steam, takes you so by surprise that you involuntarily close your eyes and jerk your head away.

Naturalist John Burroughs says that "the chickadee has a voice full of unspeakable tenderness and fidelity." The bird's common name comes from its voice, but we usually hear it abbreviated to "dee, dee, dee." But this sweet and pleasing greeting is varied sometimes to a whistled call—two notes in spring, three notes either spring or fall. Most persons are unaware of this virtuosity, it is so seldom heard.

If you are really old, like your Editor, and can hark back to the twenties, you may remember the popular Hawaiian love song "Yakahula." The phrase "I'm coming back to you" from that song is even more familiar than its title. Well . . . sing the final three words of the phrase and you have the chickadee's other call.

Beetles

At Annual Meeting, Mrs. Genevieve Mulford (and we) learned that some atavism compels the starling and English sparrow (both imported birds—to eat the Japanese beetle. The only reason other birds do not do us similar service is that through the centuries this has not been their native food. Given time (and there are indications that it is happening now) they will develop a taste for the beetle also, and this yearly menace to gardens and trees and the natural habitat of our birds will be lessened, if not eliminated.

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IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Henry (Eunice) Whitney

Founder and Trustee; President for two years. Even after serving as President she never lost her interest in the work of the Society, was almost invariably present at Annual meetings, and a frequent visitor and volunteer.

Mrs. Cottrell Chandler

One-time member of the Board of Trustees, and loyal member through the years.

Appreciated have been the many contributions received from friends in memory of the former Mrs. Herbert Knox, long-time member and friend of the Sanctuary.

The future of your Sanctuary depends on **you**. For the future of America its dedication and service to Conservation becomes more important with each passing year; must continue

after you are gone. Your present contribution can achieve a kind of immortality for it and you if you will remember us in your will. Make yours a more than passing interest.

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YOU AND MEMBERSHIP IN THE PEQUOT-SEPOS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Members, now totaling over 600, reside in eighteen states and the District of Columbia.

Membership is open to everyone. The present membership includes both amateurs and professionals in natural history subjects and many who recognize the Sanctuary's educational influence in community life.

Four members are elected to the Board of Trustees annually to serve for terms of five years each. The Officers of the Sanctuary are elected annually by the Board of Trustees.

BECOME A MEMBER OR GIVE NOW! On the bottom of this page you will find a form for your membership application or contribution. All memberships include a subscription to our quarterly bulletin, *Pequot Trails*, and have the privilege of participation in all scheduled events.

TAKE AN ACTIVE PART! Opportunities will be offered for participation in field trips, Sanctuary visits, committee work and many other activities.

HERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY to affiliate now with an organization actively engaged in the promotion of a worthy community program of conservation education and recreation.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary

Mystic, Connecticut

Date

Please enroll me as a member of the Pequot-sepos Wildlife Sanctuary for the year ending
, 19..... I enclose payment for the class of membership checked below.

☐ Regular: \$5.00 annually

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